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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) A method of purifying a metal salt in which  
adsorbents comprising ~~comprises bringing the metal salt formed by melting~~  
~~an alkali metal salt, an alkaline earth metal salt or a mixture thereof into~~  
~~contact with one or more of titanium, titanium alloy, zirconium and~~  
~~zirconium alloy~~ are immersed into a metal salt formed by melting an alkali  
metal salt, an alkaline earth metal salt or a mixture thereof to [[,]] thereby  
adsorb ~~adsorbing~~ impurities in the metal salt, wherein a relationship  
between a volume  $V$  ( $\text{cm}^3$ ) of the metal salt and a total surface area of the  
adsorbents immersed into the metal salt  $S$  ( $\text{cm}^2$ ) satisfies an equation (1)  
below,

$$\underline{V/S \leq 100} \quad (1).$$

2. (currently amended) A purification method of a metal salt according to  
claim 1, wherein the relationship between the volume  $V$  ( $\text{cm}^3$ ) of the metal  
salt and the total surface area of the adsorbents immersed into the metal  
salt  $S$  ( $\text{cm}^2$ ) satisfies an equation (2) below,

$$\underline{V/S \leq 10} \quad (2)$$

~~the metal salt is melted in a vessel made of titanium or titanium alloy, or a~~  
~~vessel lined with titanium or titanium alloy.~~

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3. (previously presented) A purification method of a metal salt according to claim 1, wherein foil-like titanium is used as an adsorbent.
4. (previously presented) A method of deoxidizing a titanium material comprising dissolving metallic calcium to a molten product of a metal salt purified by the purification method according to claim 1 and bringing the same into contact with the titanium material.
5. (original) A deoxidization method of a titanium material according to claim 4, wherein calcium chloride is used as the molten salt.
6. (previously presented) A deoxidization method of a titanium material according to claim 4, wherein a vessel is used for purification of the metal salt and said vessel is also used for said dissolving and bringing into contact steps.
7. (previously presented) A method of producing a titanium material which comprises conducting molten salt electrolysis by using a molten product of a metal salt purified by the purification method according to claim 1 for electrolytic bath.

8. (original) A production method of a titanium material according to claim 7, wherein an LiCl-KCl system mixed salt is used under electrolysis as the molten salt.
9. (previously presented) A production method of a titanium material according to claim 7, wherein the exactly same vessel used for the purification of metal salt is used.
10. (previously presented) A purification method of a metal salt according to claim 2, wherein foil-like titanium is used as an adsorbent.
11. (previously presented) A method of deoxidizing a titanium material comprising dissolving metallic calcium to a molten product of a metal salt purified by the purification method according to claim 2 and bringing the same into contact with the titanium material.
12. (previously presented) A deoxidization method of a titanium material according to claim 5, wherein the exactly same vessel used for the purification of the metal salt is used.
13. (previously presented) A method of producing a titanium material which comprises conducting molten salt electrolysis by using a molten product of a

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metal salt purified by the purification method according to claim 2 for electrolytic bath.

14. (currently amended) A production method of a titanium material according to claim 8, wherein a vessel is used for purification of the metal salt and said vessel is also used for said dissolving and bringing into contact steps.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the titanium is added to a bath of the molten salt for the purifying step.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the titanium is added to a bath of the molten salt for the purifying step.